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1 September 1965

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

REVIEW OF INSURGENCY PROBLEMS

This publication provides a periodic review of internal security in underdeveloped countries where there is a threat from Communist-supported insurgency.

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

Office of Current Intelligence

State Department review completed

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REVIEW OF INSURGENCY PROBLEMS

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CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Colombia.	1
Paraguay.	2
Peru.	3
Venezuela	5
Thailand.	7

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25X1

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
1 September 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Review of Insurgency Problems

1. Colombia

The Colombian military forces chief of operations recently stated that the chief counter-insurgency effort of the armed forces is still in the Marquetalia area, where two army battalions are operating "methodically but steadily" against five or six principal bands. The population of the area, he said, is basically antiarmy because of the preponderance of extremist philosophies there rather than because of military actions. The officer believes that the Communist bandit leader Tiro Fijo has escaped to the area of Rio Chiquito, where the military policy is still essentially one of peaceful pacification. He asserted that the El Pato area, in the peripheries of which bandits still operate, is still a problem.

Recent Colombian press articles indicate that continued extremist training and warfare between Communists and non-Communists exist in the traditional Communist enclaves of Sumapaz and Viota. The chief of operations stated that, although there were great problems in these traditional enclaves, their easier accessibility to military patrols made them of lower priority than the other areas. Lastly, he said that the main stronghold of the Castroist Army of National Liberation (ELN) appears to be in Santander State, but that the ELN is making some efforts in Antioquia State and may be trying to establish a training center in Tolima State.

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According to the US Embassy, there are rumors in the region of central Santander State that the ELN is about to mount a campaign of violence and terrorism. In mid-August the ambush of an eight-man army patrol by a group of bandits in army uniforms in Santander resulted in four soldiers killed, but the ELN has not claimed credit for this act.

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2. Paraguay

Brazilian authorities have raided a guerrilla camp near Campo Grande in the state of Mato Grosso and arrested about 15 members of a Paraguayan

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[REDACTED]

Communist guerrilla group. Among the 15 prisoners is former Paraguayan Army Lieutenant Colonel Lorenzo Abel Arrua, described as chief of Paraguayan guerrilla activities in Brazil. The Brazilian security officials apparently uncovered a well-hidden arms cache containing weapons from various countries, which they believe may have been supplied by Cuba. The guerrillas appear to have been primarily engaged in training activities aimed at operations to overthrow the government of President Alfredo Stroessner in Paraguay.

The Brazilian action came at approximately the same time Paraguay's own security forces arrested some 60 low-level Paraguayan Communist Party (PCP) members in rural areas of central Paraguay where they were attempting to form cadres for guerrilla columns. The two series of arrests seem likely to leave the PCP with even fewer assets than before in its unequal struggle against the Stroessner government.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The prompt Brazilian action in rounding up the guerrillas and the stated intention of security officials to follow up their investigations will certainly be another plus in the generally cordial relations between Brazil and Paraguay. [REDACTED]

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3. Peru

The armed forces appear to be preparing for a large military operation against guerrillas of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) in central Peru. A temporary joint army - air force base is reportedly being established in Satipo, subordinate command post of the Huancayo

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military operations center. In addition, navy gunboats have been deployed at the confluence of the Tambo, Ene, and Satipo rivers.

MIR guerrillas in the central region--now believed limited to two small groups of 50 and 20 men, both consisting of trained cadre and local Indians--are apparently retreating toward the Ene River, having lost their base camps in the Huancayo-Andamarca area. They may be headed south in an attempt to link up with guerrillas in the Cuzco Department. Military strategy is designed to cut off the retreat at the Ene and keep the guerrillas from joining others in Cuzco. Should they escape to the south, armed action might be triggered there where popular support for the insurgents is greater than in central Peru. Thus far, serious outbreaks have been prevented in the south by wide-scale police arrests of suspected subversives.

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4. Venezuela

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Although the Venezuelan minister of defense declared on 24 August that the guerrillas were only operating in one area of the country--in western Venezuela--there is no indication that the guerrilla

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fronts in eastern Venezuela, although recently inactive, have been abandoned. In fact, [redacted] a new FALN guerrilla detachment had been formed in Bolivar State. This would add one more to the eastern Venezuelan states where guerrillas are located: Miranda, Anzoategui, Sucre, and Monagas.

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At a special press conference on 28 August director general of the Ministry of the Interior Vera Gomez distributed photostats of Communist documents indicating that the guerrilla movement is hampered by lack of supplies, inefficient leadership, and lack of grass-roots support.

The press conference was timed to follow up the dramatic defection of a veteran guerrilla leader on 24 August. His defection and statements are probably a significant propaganda blow to the guerrillas. If his story is true, the guerrillas are in a state of disarray, demoralization, and need, and split by an internal dispute between the chief component groups of the FALN--the Communist Party (PCV) and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR). The PCV and MIR reportedly do not differ on ideological grounds, but on how to wage the war against the government.

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[redacted] the impact of this difference on the effectiveness of the FALN has been difficult to assess. It remains to be seen whether these revelations will serve to strengthen the Venezuelan Government's antiguerrilla efforts or make for complacency.

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In addition, the press reported statistics indicating that the guerrillas had lost 63 men to the government's 13 in Lara State during the past four months, and that another 84 guerrillas and collaborators had been captured, with only 20 soldiers wounded in combat during the same period.

On 29 August the press reported that seven guerrillas of a group of 17 were killed and six seriously wounded in a clash with security forces in Falcon State.

The minister of the interior announced on 29 August that a plot to overthrow the government and initiate a large-scale sabotage campaign had been smashed. He stated that terrorists had planned to blow up a bridge under construction on the Orinoco River and carry out terrorist acts against oil companies in various parts of the country.

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5. Thailand

Another politically inspired assassination, the third in August and the seventh this year, has been carried out by suspected Communist subversives in northeast Thailand. The victim was accused of having led police to a dissident encampment in Nakhon Phanom Province in late July. This action is probably part of a reported plan to step up terrorism against suspected police informants in reaction to recent government security sweeps.

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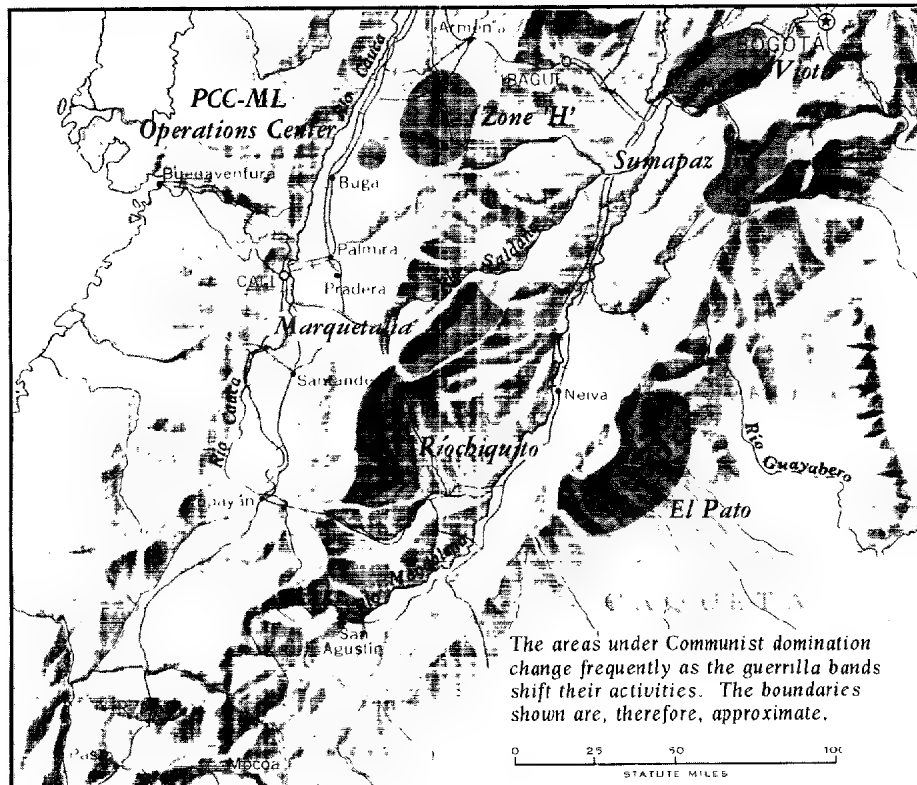
COLOMBIA

Communist-Dominated Areas

1 SEPTEMBER 1965

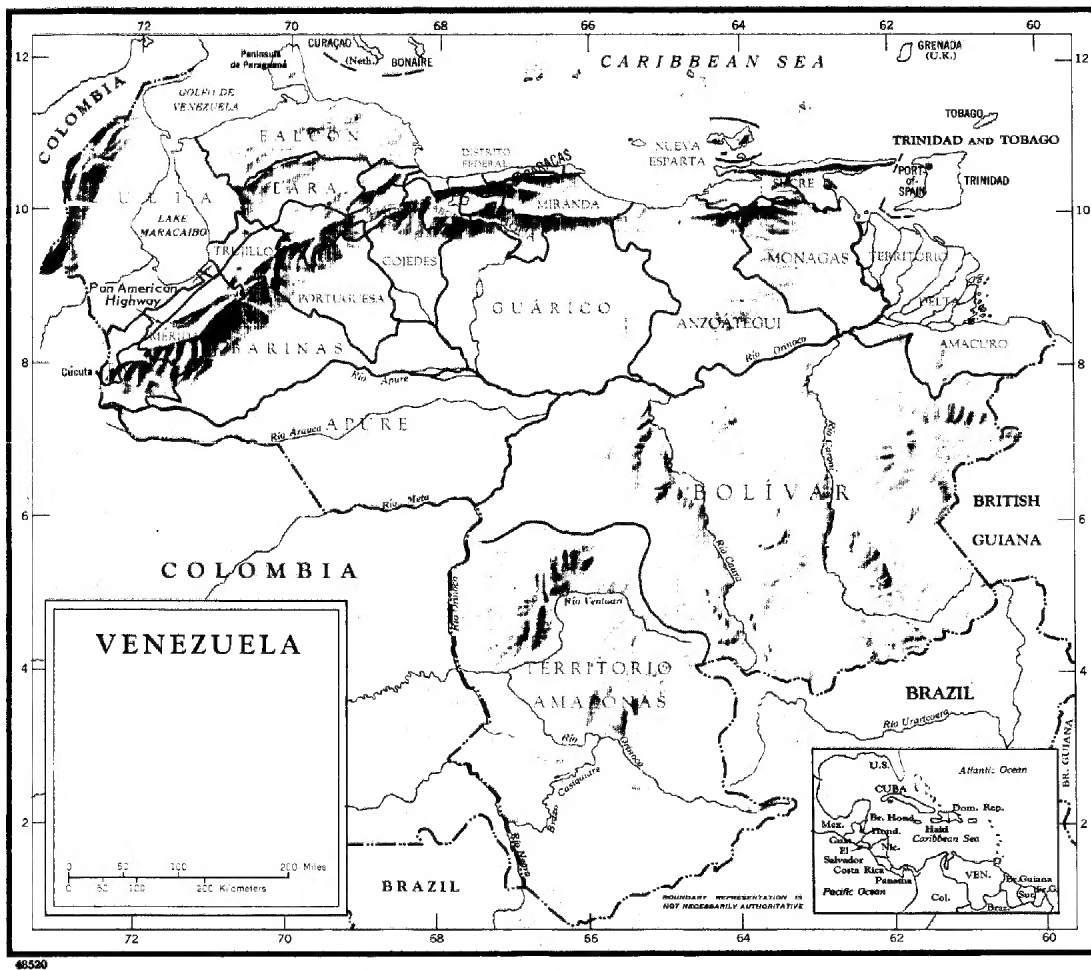


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